

In recent years, there have been signs that helping Africans in their struggle against poverty is not just a moral issue but enlightened self-interest. A case in point is the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which has increased access to the U.S. market for African businesses that manufacture textiles and other basic products. The Commerce Department reports that this measure is already having a positive impact in several African countries, creating job opportunities. The \$15-billion aid package proposed by the Bush administration—and enacted by Congress—to help fight AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean is a very good demonstration of American leadership. We can take similar measures to help Africans find solutions to the civil wars that have plagued the continent for years, destroyed millions of lives, and drained resources that should be devoted to education and health care.

Of course, the United States does not have a magic solution to all the problems that African nations face. But we can—and should—be a key part of the solution. In an increasingly interdependent world, such action will yield dividends, not just for Africans but for Americans as well. President Bush, like his father before, must listen to the people, inspire hope and provide relevant help to the Africans at the grassroots.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1146

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, concerning roll-call vote 108–364, On Agreeing to the Amendment of Representative RON PAUL of Texas to H.R. 1950, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2003: Although I was correctly recorded as voting against the passage of this amendment, which eventually failed by an overwhelming vote of 74 to 350, I would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that my “no” vote was in error, and I would have liked to have voted “aye” on this provision.

Specifically, Representative PAUL’s amendment would have prohibited funds authorized under H.R. 1950 to be used to pay any U.S. contribution to the United Nations or any affiliated agency of the United Nations. Like many, I firmly believe evidence of the need for a dramatic reevaluation of current U.N. policy is glaring. Over the years, the United States has been a host nation to the United Nations, headquartered in New York City, and has contributed greatly to the funding for the organization, including the enormous cost to the American taxpayer of deploying our military on the numerous U.N. peacekeeping missions worldwide, amounting to roughly one-quarter of the peacekeeping expenses of the 191-member body. However, recent events surrounding the ousting of Saddam Hussein’s tyrannical regime in Iraq, and the inability of the United Nations to enforce its own Security Council resolutions, has renewed questions of the legitimacy of this body, as well as the necessity and level of U.S. participation in its funding and daily activities.

I would also like to note that I have cosponsored a number of pieces of legislation in the House of Representatives, which, I believe,

address these questions more thoroughly. While I do not object to the U.N.’s founding objectives of peace through positive discussions and diplomacy, the organization has clearly failed in this charter mission. As it currently exists, the United Nations merely provides a weighted platform to nondemocratic and anti-American nations. Perhaps a more constructive and strategically important avenue would be to pursue an entirely new federation of nations, limiting voting membership to democratic countries that share our values and goals.

For these reasons, I have cosponsored H.R. 1146, introduced by Representative RON PAUL, which calls on the United States to withdraw from the United Nations entirely. I have also cosponsored two related bills, which would impact our involvement in the United Nations in lesser ways. H.R. 800 would provide for the withholding of United States contributions to any U.N. commission, organization, or affiliated agency that is chaired or presided over by a country that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism. H. Con. Res. 116 takes this bill a step further, issuing a sense of Congress that the United States should withhold all payments to the United Nations until its bylaws are amended to prevent countries whose leaders are not democratically elected from holding a position of authority within the United Nations.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CRIME PREVENTION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Association of Town Watch for its outstanding commitment to building police/community partnerships and its effectiveness in developing and supporting neighborhood and community watch programs through its annual National Night Out program. On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, I would like to recognize the National Night Out program for the important role it plays in helping local law enforcement fight crime, drugs, and terrorism and providing safety and security to America’s communities.

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a national nonprofit community-crime prevention association located in Wynnewood, PA, organizes the annual National Night Out, developing relationships between the local community and law enforcement officers in order to build safer and more secure neighborhoods. NATW provides information, program support and technical assistance to local citizens and communities to establish local community-crime prevention programs.

National Night Out has been at the forefront of community crime prevention for two decades. What began as a relatively local and small program in the Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey tri-state area has become the largest annual grassroots crime prevention event in the nation. A small U.S. Department of Justice Grant in 1984 helped to support the first National Night Out, reaching 2 million people in 400 communities in the tri-state area. Today, this program includes 33 million

people in 9,850 communities across the United States. Last year alone, 400,000 citizens in 150 communities organized new community watch programs, a true testament to the effectiveness of the program.

National Night Out has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress for well over a decade. It has also enjoyed the support of every president since Ronald Reagan. Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton each participated in the event while in office. In addition, law enforcement and municipal organizations such as the National Sheriffs Association, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors have expressed strong support for National Night Out.

It is also engaged in key partnerships to help communities. This year, National Night Out is supporting the National Child Identification Program (NCIDP), a joint partnership between the American Football Coaches Association and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide identification kits to parents and guardians to help locate missing children.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some examples of the value of the National Night Out program and the important role of NATW. National Night Out, a public-private partnership that receives part of its funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant program, is one of the fastest growing, cost effective community anticrime programs in the nation. It has proven to be a powerful tool for building stronger, safer neighborhoods. I understand the value of National Night Out and, as a result, have asked appropriators on the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee to support National Night Out funding.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that this statement be included in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to support National Night Out.

U.S.-JAPAN MARITIME YOUTH EXCHANGE 2003

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the U.S.-Japan Maritime Youth Exchange Program and its participants for 2003. The U.S.-Japan Maritime Youth Exchange Program brings together 12 high school students (6 from each country) for a three-week program of travel and study in Japan and the United States. It was developed and funded through a partnership between the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington, DC and the Japan Youth Research Institute beginning in 1998. The major objective of the program is to increase mutual understanding by American and Japanese youth of our maritime traditions and the importance of our continued cooperation and alliance.

The program’s purpose is to teach participants about the historical, cultural, economic, and other factors that impact the two countries’ maritime policies and practices. The program joins together one American cadet and one Japanese student as “partners” throughout the exchange. By fostering understanding, respect, teamwork and friendship, on both the individual and group levels, the program will